

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 68

By Moody

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mike Nawrocki for his illustrious career in children's entertainment.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this legislative body recognize those Tennesseans who utilize their talents and abilities to become successful in their respective areas of business; and

WHEREAS, Mike Nawrocki, Executive Vice President of Big Idea Entertainment, is one such individual who has made a successful impact in his field; and

WHEREAS, born July 8, 1966, in Dayton, Ohio, Mike Nawrocki studied at St. Paul Bible College, now known as Crown College, where he met Phil Vischer while serving on a puppet ministry; he later joined Mr. Vischer at GRAFx while attending the University of Illinois at Chicago; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Mr. Nawrocki and Mr. Vischer created the *VeggieTales* animated series for GRAFx, now known as Big Idea Entertainment; the first video, *Where Is God When I'm S-Scared?* was released the same year; *VeggieTales* has released more than forty episodes and two feature-length films, as well as children's books and albums; and

WHEREAS, Mike Nawrocki serves as a director, producer, writer, composer, and executive producer of the *VeggieTales* series; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Mike Nawrocki lends his talent as the voice of lead character Larry the Cucumber and characters Jerry Gourd, Jean-Claude Pea, Qwerty, Scallion #2, Lil' Pea, and The Peach; he also portrayed Larryboy and Larry in *Larryboy: The Cartoon Adventures*; and

WHEREAS, in addition to *VeggieTales*, Mike Nawrocki co-developed and co-wrote the Christian computer animated science fiction series *3-2-1 Penguins!*, which ran for three seasons; he also voiced the character Vacuum; and

WHEREAS, a published author, Mr. Nawrocki co-wrote *Bob Lends a Helping...Hand?* and *The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything and Me!*; he wrote *Peas and Thank You!* in the voice of his character Larry the Cucumber; and

WHEREAS, now residing in Franklin, Mike Nawrocki was appointed Executive Vice President of Big Idea Entertainment in 2008, in which position he oversees all creative development, including the Netflix series *VeggieTales In The House*; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, *VeggieTales* is a six-time winner of the Gospel Music Association's (GMA) Dove Award for the Children's Music Album of the Year for *A Very Veggie Christmas* in 1997; *Larry-Boy: The Soundtrack* in 2000; *A Queen, A King, and A Very Blue Berry* in 2001; *Jonah, A VeggieTales Movie Original Soundtrack* in 2003; *VeggieTales Worship Songs* in 2007; and *25 Favorite Bible Songs* in 2014. *VeggieTales* also won the GMA Dove Award for long form music video of the year in 1998 for *A Very Silly Sing-Along* and was nominated in 2004 for *VeggieTales: Very Silly Songs*; and

WHEREAS, Mike Nawrocki is perhaps most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Lisa Nawrocki, and his two children; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body recognize Mike Nawrocki for his professional excellence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Mike Nawrocki for his illustrious career in children's entertainment, extending our best wishes to him for success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.